



## City of Cincinnati

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date: August 29, 2007

### CINCINNATI EXPLORES DOG PARKS DOWNTOWN

As the City of Cincinnati's urban center welcomes more and more residents, City Manager Milton Dohoney is looking at creating one or two dog parks downtown as amenities to support the housing growth. Members of the community have been invited to join city staff on a committee to explore the feasibility, size, and location of a dog park in the downtown area. Committee members are from organizations such as the Cincinnati Kennel Club, the SPCA, the League for Animal Welfare, the Downtown Residents Council, Downtown Cincinnati, Inc., the Pet Athletic Club, Sheltered Paws Dog Rescue, the City of Cincinnati Park Board, Department of Public Services, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, as well as current dog park users.

"To help us broaden the appeal of downtown and be the progressive city we want to be, we need to look at the feasibility of adding a full-fledged dog park for downtown residents," said Dohoney.

Currently, dogs are allowed in parks on leash including Lytle and Piatt Parks in the Central Business District. Additionally, the Park Board operates two off leash dog parks in the city; one is in Mt. Airy Forest on the west side of town, and one dog park is in the new Armleder Park on the east side of town.

Dohoney has decided that he will not recommend changes to the ordinance regulating animals on Fountain Square, in effect for more than 30 years. The current ordinance prohibits animals on Fountain Square except for those needed as service animals, for law enforcement, or as outlined in permits. In reaching this decision, Dohoney received input from the Downtown Residents Council, and reviewed emails and letters from the public, comments from business workers who frequent the Square, as well as the practices of cities across the country. Additionally, the fact that the porous materials used in the redesign of Fountain Square are not conducive to animals continually using the Square contributed to the decision.

"We want downtown to be a community for all kinds of people, including pet owners," Dohoney said. "That is why it is important to bring the community to the table to help plan for a park that is designed especially for them and their dogs."

No timeframe has been established for the committee's work.

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